

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 JUSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /100 R

DRAFTED BY EB/CBA/BP:RJBUSHNELL:VJW

APPROVED BY EB/CBA/BP:HJWINTER

L/EB - PTRIMBLE

JUSTICE - JDAVIDOW (SUBST)

EUR/CEN - DKRUSE (PHONE)

EUR/NE - APINKNEY

EUR/NE - PCANNEY

EUR/NE - SDAWKINS

EUR/RPE - RHARDING (SUBST)

----- 021917

R 182326Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS STATE 254206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, CA, SW, DA, NO, FI

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: MINK BREEDERS

REF: 1) STATE 006577, JANUARY 11, 1974 (TO SCANDINAVIAN
ADDRESSEES); 2) STATE A-376, JANUARY 16, 1974 (TO
CANADIAN ADDRESSEES)

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1. AS ADDRESSEES WERE INFORMED IN REFERENCED MESSAGES,

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS WHICH PRODUCE AND MARKET MINK PELTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE COMBINED AND CONSPIRED TO STABILIZE PRICES AND RESTRICT SUPPLIES IN THE PERIOD MARCH 1970 TO THE PRESENT IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 1 OF THE SHERMAN ANTITRUST ACT.

2. THE INVESTIGATION IS NEARLY COMPLETE AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS LIKELY TO FILE A CIVIL SUIT IN THIS MATTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE. JUSTICE DOES NOT INTEND TO NAME ANY FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS AS DEFENDANTS, BUT DOES INTEND TO NAME THE BOARD OF THE SCANDINAVIAN FUR FARM ORGANIZATIONS (SCANBOARD) AND THE CANADIAN MINK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (CMB) AS CO-CONSPIRATORS IN THE CIVIL SUIT. SCANBOARD IS MADE UP OF THE MINK BREEDING AND MARKETING ASSOCIATIONS OF DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND FINLAND. CMB IS AN ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MINK PRODUCERS.

3. EVIDENCE HAS BEEN GATHERED IN THIS MATTER WHICH JUSTICE BELIEVES ESTABLISHES THAT FROM AT LEAST MARCH OF 1970 TO THE PRESENT THE AMERICAN, SCANDINAVIAN, AND CANADIAN MINK ASSOCIATIONS HAVE CONSPIRED TO STABILIZE AND MAINTAIN WORLD PRICES OF MINK PELTS. IN ADDITION, THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE PARTIES SOUGHT TO RESTRICT SUPPLIES OF MINK PELTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE DURING CERTAIN DEFINED TIME PERIODS, PURSUANT TO A FORMULA DERIVED BY THEM.

4. SINCE FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS ARE NAMED CO-CONSPIRATORS IN THE CIVIL SUIT AND THE CONTEMPLATED RELIEF WOULD BAN FUTURE INTERNATIONAL MARKET ALLOCATION AMONG THE DEFENDANTS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS, WE BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT, PURSUANT TO THE 1967 OECD RECOMMENDATION, EACH ACTION EMBASSY NOTIFY HOST GOVERNMENT OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF ITS NATIONALS IN THIS MATTER AND THE RELIEF CONTEMPLATED.

5. ACCORDING TO OECD, APPROPRIATE OFFICES TO BE NOTIFIED ARE:

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-- DENMARK: MONOPOLTILSYNET,
-- NORREGADE 49,
-- 1165 COPENHAGEN K

-- FINLAND: FREEDOM OF COMMERCE OFFICE,
-- ELINKEINOVAPAU SVIRASTO,
-- PITKANSILLANRANTA 3A,

-- 00530 HELSINKI 53

-- NORWAY: PRISDIREKTORATET,
-- OSLO-DEP.,
-- OSLO 1

-- SWEDEN: THE ANTITRUST OMBUDSMAN,
-- NARINGSFRIHETSOMBUDSMANNEN,
-- FACK,
-- S-103 10 STOCKHOLM 2

-- CANADA: UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
-- EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (ATTENTION:
-- COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION),
-- WITH A COPY OF NOTIFICATION TO
-- THE DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATION
-- AND RESEARCH, COMBINES INVESTI-
-- GATION ACT, DEPARTMENT OF
-- CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

6. EMBASSIES SHOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT WHEN NOTIFICATION
COMPLETED, INCLUDING ANY SIGNIFICANT REACTION FROM HOST
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJBUSHNELL:VJW
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, US, CA, SW, DA, NO, FI
To: OTTAWA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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